IN THE CLAIMS:

*On page 24 at line 1, please delete the word "Claims" and insert --What is claimed is--
therefor.*

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for determining and outputting a similarity measure between two data strings, each data string comprising data entities, comprising:
   - receiving a first data string,
   - receiving a second data string,
        characterized by
   - determining pairs of consecutively following data entities in said first data string,
   - determining the relative positions of said pairs of consecutively following data entities in said first data string,
   - allocating a position label to each of said data entities in the first data string,
   - numbering same data entities according to their relative position in accordance with the position label,
   - determining similar data entities with the same order in said second data string,
   - determining the relative positions of said determined data entities in said second data string,
   - determining a matching measure by determining how far the relative positions of data entities in said second data string match with the relative positions of consecutively following data entities in said first data string, and
   - outputting a similarity measure which corresponds to the matching measure of at least one comparison result.

2. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
   - determining at least one error limit for at least one of said entities, and
   - considering said at least one error limit during said determination of said matching measure.

3. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
   - determining a first distance between said two data entities of consecutively following data entities in said first data string,

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- determining a second distance of said two data entities determined in said second data string,
- ~~determine~~ <u>determining</u> a difference between said first and second distances, and
- considering said difference during said determination of said matching measure.

4. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 1, further comprising:
- storing said second string together with said similarity measure.

5. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 1, further comprising:
- determining a threshold for said similarity measure, and
- outputting said second string, if said determined similarity measure at least equals said threshold.

6. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 5, further comprising:
- repeating said determination of said similarity measure with a number of second strings, and
- determining said threshold in correspondence with a number of second strings to be outputted.

7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 1, further comprising:
- analyzing the first string for entities not present in the first string, and
- suppressing in the second string all said entities not present in said first string.

8. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 7, further comprising:
- determining the number of entities that are present in the second string, but are not present in the first string, as a second similarity measure.

9. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 8, further comprising:
- determining a section within said second string comprising at least the same number of entities that are simultaneously present in both strings.

10. (currently amended) ~~Software~~ <u>A software</u> tool comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ <u>claim 1</u> when said software tool is run on a computer or network device.

11. (currently amended) ~~Computer~~ A computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 when said program product is run on a computer or network device.

12. (currently amended) ~~Computer~~ A computer program product comprising program code, downloadable from a server for carrying out the method of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1 when said program product is run on a computer or network device.

13. (currently amended) ~~Computer~~ A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a program that instructs a computer to perform the steps of the method of ~~anyone of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

14. (currently amended) ~~Electronic~~ An electronic device for determining and outputting a similarity measure between two data strings each comprising data entities, comprising:
- a component for receiving a first data string of entities and a second data string of entities,
- a processing unit being connected to said receiving component, said processing unit being configured to determine pairs of consecutively following data entities in said first data string, said processing unit being configured to determine the relative positions of said pairs of consecutively following data entities in said first data string, and for allocating a position label to each of said data entities in the first data string, and numbering same data entities according to their relative position in accordance with the position label; said processing unit being configured to determine similar data entities with the same order in said second data string, and to determine the relative positions of said determined data entities in said second data string, [[, ,]] said processing unit being configured to determine a matching measure by determining how far the relative positions of data entities in said second data string match with the relative positions of consecutively following data entities in said first data string, and said processing unit being configured to output a similarity measure which corresponds to the matching measure of at least one comparison result, and
- an interface being connected to said for processing unit for outputting said similarity measure.

15. (currently amended) ~~Electronic~~ An electronic device according to claim 14, further comprising a storage connected to said processing unit for storing received strings and said determined similarity measures.